

Message Text

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R 260930Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WAHSDC 422

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA POUCH

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS CAIRO 2526

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EG XF

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN PRESS ON QADDUMI INTERVIEW WITH "SIYAD"

1. EGYPTIAN DAILIES FEBRUARY 26 REPORT ON FRONT PAGES
INTERVIEW BY PLO POLITICAL COMMITTEE CHIEF FARUQ QADDUMI
(ABU LUTF) WITH LEBANESE MAGAZINE "AL-SIYAD." LOCAL PRESS
SINGLES OUT FOR EMPHASIS BOTH QADDUMI COMMENT THAT PLO
ANXIOUS TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH EGYPT (DESPITE ANY
TRANSITORY DISAGREEMENTS) AND THAT DIFFERENCES CURRENTLY
EXIST BETWEEN SYRIA AND PLO ON QUESTION OF PLO RELATIONS WITH
JORDAN.

2. WADDUMI, ACCORDING TO EGYPTIAN VERSION, STRESSED THAT
LONGSTANDING SYRIAN MEDIATION EFFORTS TO INSURE JORDANIAN
IMPLEMENTATION OF RABAT SUMMIT RESOLUTIONS HAD PRODUCED NO
NOTICEABLE RESULTS. IN ADDITION, REPEATED PLO EFFORTS TO
SECURE JORDANIAN PERMISSION TO USE JORDANIAN TERRITORY
FOR PLO OPERATIONS AGAINST WEST BANK HAD BEEN CONSISTENTLY
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REBUFFED BY AMMAN. DESPITE SYRIAN EFFORTS TO PERSUADE

JORDIANS TO ALLOW PLO MILITARY OPERATIONS INTO ISRAELI
FROM JORDANIAN TERRITORY, AND DESPITE REPEATED EFFORTS BY
QADDUMI PERSONALLY TO MEET WITH JORDANIAN PRIMIN RIFA'I,
NO PROGRESS WAS VISIBLE IN THIS AREA.

3. COMMENT: ARTICLES ON QADDUMI INTERVIEW RELATIVELY SHORT
AND STRAIGHTFORWARDED AND LARGELY OVERSHADOWED BY SADAT-KING
KHALID MEETINGS IN RIYADH, ALTHOUGH INTERVIEW DOES RECEIVE
FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT. TONE OF ARTICLES GENERALLY RESTRAINED
AND PRIMARY EMPHASIS IN TREATMENT IS QADDUMI AFFIRMATION
OF CLOSE EGYPTIAN-PLO TIES (QADDUMI COMMENTED THAT EGYPT
ALWAYS SHOWED UNDERSTANDING FOR PLO POSITIONS EVEN IF THERE
WAS DIVERGENCE IN POLICY) AND MATTER OF PLO-SYRIAN DIFFERENCES
NOT UNDUELY STRESSED IN EGYPTIAN PRESS COVERAGE. AHRAM ALSO
QUOTED QADDUMI DOWN-PLAYING OF JORDANIAN PARLIAMENT ISSUE
("PARLIAMENT IS ISSUE WHICH HAS BEEN OUTSTANDING FOR A LONG
TIME AND WHICH KING HUSAIN DRAWS FROM HIS QUIVER FROM TIME
TO TIME FOR TACTICAL REASONS.").
EILTS

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